

**From:** [Ellerbee, Tom](#)  
**To:** [Vincent Malott/R6/USEPA/US@EPA](#)  
**Cc:** [Ingram, Nancy](#); [Phyllis Hoey/R6/USEPA/US@EPA](#); [Walker, Tina](#)  
**Subject:** RE: pecans - West CR 112 NPL site - Midland Tx  
**Date:** 10/27/2010 12:50 PM

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Hey Vince:

Seems that all the people in the know about lab test methods here at DSHS are out of office till Oct 29.

I will let you know as soon as we find out more info

Tom Ellerbee  
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**From:** Malott.Vincent@epamail.epa.gov [mailto:Malott.Vincent@epamail.epa.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 27, 2010 10:05 AM  
**To:** Ellerbee, Tom  
**Cc:** Ingram, Nancy; Hoey.Phyllis@epamail.epa.gov; Walker, Tina  
**Subject:** Re: pecans - West CR 112 NPL site - Midland Tx

Tom,

this sounds like a good idea as part of the overall human health risk assessment. I'll include this with the initial field effort since the pecan trees are probably ready for harvest. Do you know what lab method is used to assess metals in food products, or what was used at Old Esco? Also what about the other fruits and vegetables - do you have information on what kind of impacts are present or should this also be considered in future sampling (maybe next spring and summer)? Thanks.

Vincent Malott, P.G.  
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**From:** "Ellerbee, Tom" <Tom.Ellerbee@dshs.state.tx.us>  
**To:** Vincent Malott/R6/USEPA/US@EPA  
**Cc:** Phyllis Hoey/R6/USEPA/US@EPA, "Ingram, Nancy" <Nancy.Ingram@dshs.state.tx.us>, "Walker, Tina" <Tina.Walker@dshs.state.tx.us>  
**Date:** 10/27/2010 09:51 AM  
**Subject:** pecans - West CR 112 NPL site - Midland Tx

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Hello Vince:

We have been asked by several citizens who live in the area of the County Road 112 NPL site whether or not it is safe to consume the fruit and/or nuts from their trees. They want to know if the chromium in the groundwater is being absorbed through the trees and therefore affecting the fruit/nuts.

Unfortunately, we are having difficulty finding enough information about absorption of chromium through plants that we feel comfortable making a health call. Without testing the nuts we are unsure if they are contaminated at a level that would harm human health or at all.

This same concern came up at the Old ESCO site in Greenville. There EPA collected pecans from the trees and tested them for PCBs.

- **Would EPA consider collecting pecans from trees in the areas where the chromium levels are the highest?**

Thanks

Tom Ellerbee

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